

ARTICLES

O F

Visitation and Enquiry, concerning
Matters

Ecclesiastical,

According to the

L A W S and C A N O N S

Of the

CHURCH of *ENGLAND*;

Exhibited to the Ministers, Church-Wardens,
and Side-men of every Parish, within the
Archdeaconry of *Worcester*, in the Visitation of
the Reverend *William Hodges* Dr. of Divinity,
Archdeacon of *Worcester*.

Anno Domini 1668.

L O N D O N,

Printed by *Thomas Ratcliff*.

*Do appear in the 14th parish church of St. Andrew in parish
upon Thursday the eighteenth day of April 1668 by
sight of the flock in the morning*

Bibliography



THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

HENRY STEVENS of Vermont,
USA, &c. 4 Trafalgar Square,
London. 1882





The Oath to be administred to every
Church-warden and Side-man, within
the Archdeaconry of *Worcester*.

YOU, and every of you shall swear dili-
gently to enquire, and true present-
ment make to these Articles according to his
Majesties Laws.

So help you God.

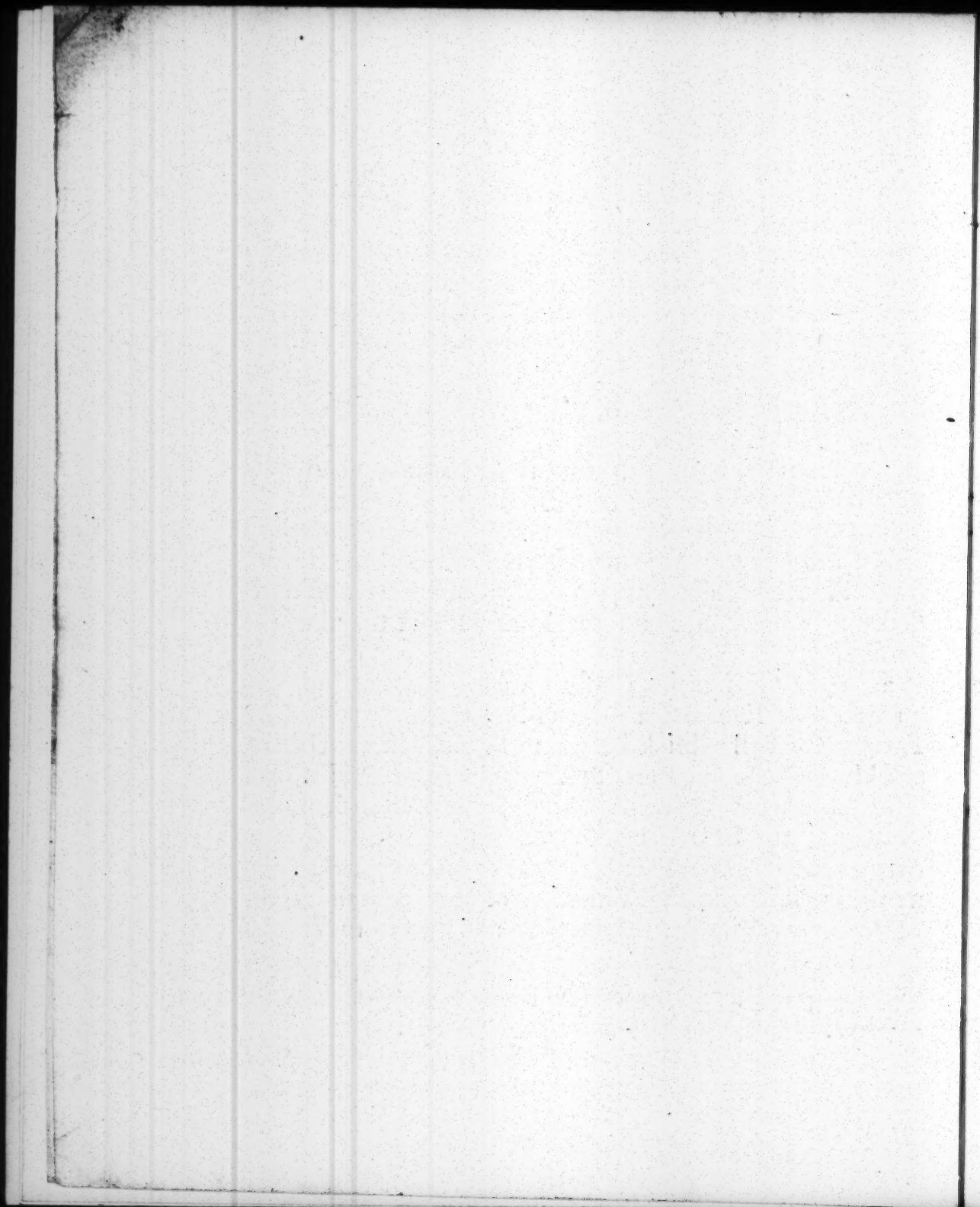




A Note of Directions.

THe old Church-wardens, and Side-men of every Parish Church and Chappel are to joyn together in appearance, and presentment upon the Articles delivered in this behalf, and the Minister also may joyn in presentment with them if he will, otherwise the Minister may present alone. And the new elected Church-wardens and Side-men are to appear, and to take their Oathes, and to Exhibit their Presentments afterwards when they shall be assigned, as by the 118. and 119. Canons is required. The Presentments are to be plainly, and particularly set down to answer every part and branch of every several Article following, and to be subscribed and testified under the hands and marks of all and singular the Presenters.

2. The Proprietaries, Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and Sequestrators of Ecclesiastical Benefices, and their respective Farmers, and all publick Lecturers, Schoolmasters, Ushers, and Under-Schoolmasters, &c. within every Parish, are also to appear, and to exhibite their Letters of Orders, Institutions, and Inductions, and all other their Dispensations, Licenses, and Faculties whatsoever, not being formerly exhibited in the Visitation of the modern Arch-Deacon now Visiting. And they are also to make real payment of all such Procurations and Synodals, and other duties as are respectively due and payable by every of them severally in this Visitation.





*Articles of Visitation and Enquiry,
concerning Matters Ecclesiastical,
according to the Lawes and Canons
of the Church of England, &c.*

TITUL. I.

Concerning Churches and Chappels, with
the Ornaments and Furniture there-
unto belonging.

I.



S your Church-fabrick, or Chappel
kept in good repair within and with-
out, as becometh the House dedicated
to the publick Worship and solemn
service of God.

II. IS there in your Church or Chappel
an handsome Font of stone standing in
a convenient place, with a good Cover to it, for the Admi-
nistration of Baptism? Is there also a decent Commu-
nion-Table with a fair Carpet of Silk or fine Cloth,
also a fine Linnen covering to be used at the Administra-
tion of the Lords Supper? And have you a fair Commu-
nion-Cup or Chalice with a Cover of Silver, and one or
more flagons of Silver or Pewter thereunto belonging?

III. HAVE you in your Church or Chappel a conve-
nient Seat or Pew for your Minister to read Divine
Service in? Also a Pulpit with a decent Cloth or Cu-
shion?

tion? Have you a Bible of the last Translation, in a large Volume, with two Books of Common Prayer well bound, one for the Minister, the other for the Clerk? Have you the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority? Also the Book of Canons, and a Table of Allowed Degrees in Marriage?

IV. HAVE you a comely Surplice for your Minister to wear in his publick Ministration provided, and to be duly washed at the charge of the Parish?

V. HAVE you a Register-book of Parchment, wherein are set down the Names and Sur-names of all persons that are Christened Married, or Buried within your Parish, with the Day, Month, and Year of each Christning, Marriage, & Burial, together with the Names and Sur-names of both the Parents of the children so Christened?

VI. HAVE you a strong Chest with Locks and Keys, wherein the Plate and Books and all other the aforesaid mentioned Furniture may be safely and decently kept? And have you a Bier, and black Herse-cloth, for the decent Burial of the Dead?

T I T. II.

Concerning the Church-yard, the Houses, Glebes and Tithes belonging to the Church.

I. IS your Church-yard sufficiently fenced with Walls, Rails, or Pales, and decently kept from all annoyance and encroachment; and are the Trees therein preserved?

II. IS the Mansion-house of your Minister, with all other Houses and Buildings thereunto belonging, kept in good Repair? Have any of them been pulled down or decayed, and by whom? Hath any person encroached upon any of the Land thereunto belonging?

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III. HAVE you a perfect Territor of all Glebelands, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements, or Cottages, belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage; as also a particular List or Note of all such Tithes, Penfions, Rents, Customs, and other yearly Profits within or without your Parish, as belong thereunto? Are any of them withheld from your Minister, and by whom?

IV. HAVE any of the ancient Glebelands belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage been taken away or exchanged for other, without the consent of the Incumbent, and License from the Ordinary? Have any Inclosures been made in your Parish to the detriment of the Church?

T I T. III.

Concerning Ministers.

I. IS your Minister a Priest or Deacon, Episcopally Ordained, according to the Lawes of the Church of England?

II. IS he defamed or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders, by any Simoniackal compact?

III. HATH he been legally Instituted and Inducted into his Benefice? And did he within two Moneths after his Induction, publicly in the Church, upon some Sunday or Holy-day, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39. Articles of the Church of England, established by Authority, and there publicly Declare his Assent thereunto?

IV. HATH he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice, Prebend, or Dignity? Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice amongst you? How many weeks in any one Year hath he been absent from it, without urgent necessity?

V. HATH your Minister a Curate to assist him? Is the said Curate in holy Orders, an able and discreet Person, and conformable to the Lawes and Orders of the Church

Church of England? Is he allowed by the Bishop to serbe in your Church or Chappel? And doth he serbe in any other Church beside? And what yearly Stipend doth your Minister allott him?

VI. DOTH your Parson, Vicar or Curate, in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the holy Sacraments, celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after child-birth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, and pronouncing Gods Commination against impenitent Sinners, use the Form and Words prescribed in the Book of Common-prayer, without any Addition, Omission, or Alteration of the same? And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the said Book?

VII. DOTH your Minister, at the Reading or celebrating any Divine Office in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice, together with such other Scholastical Habitt as is suitable to his Degree?

VIII. DOTH he obserbe the Holy-dayes and Fasting-dayes, as also the Ember-weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation-week, as in the Common-prayer-Book, or by the Ecclesiastical Canons is appointed; giving notice to the Parishioners of ebery of the same in the Church, in the time of Divine Service upon the Sunday next before?

IX. HATH your Minister been Licensed to preach by the Bishop, or either of the two Universities? If so, Doth he then constantly (unless in case of sickness, necessary absence, or other reasonable impediment) himself preach in your Church or Chappel, one Sermon ebery Sunday? Or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed, be hindered by sickness, or otherwise, as aforesaid, Doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Minister, a Licensed Preacher? or one of the Homilies, set forth by Authority, to be there read by Priest or Deacon lawfully Ordained?

X. DOTH your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish, in the Church-catechism? And doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be confirmed by

by the Bishop? And doth he endeavour to Reclaim all Popish Recusants, and other Sectaries (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion established in the Church of England, and to their bounden Duty, in obeying the Lawes, and submitting to the Government thereof?

XI. DOTH he neglect to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of death? Is there any Childe past Infancy, or other person of more Years, through your Ministers default, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish? Doth he Baptize any without Godfathers and Godmothers, or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own children?

XII. DOTH he in his Sermons preach sound Doctrine, tending to the Edification of the People in the knowledge and Faith of Jesus Christ, and Obedience to Gods Holy Commandments? Or hath he at any time (as you know, or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious or schismatical Doctrine, thereby to seduce the people into Parties and Factions, to the disturbance of the publick peace and Unity either of the Church or State?

XIII. HATH he presumed to Harpy any persons in private Houses? Or such, as being under Age, have not the consent of their Parents, or without the Banes first published on three Sundays or Holy-days in the Church? Or at any other hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning; unless he had a License or dispensation so to do?

XIV. DOTH any person preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Bishop so to doing? Doth he before his Lecture, read Divine Service according to the Book of Common-Prayer? And is he in all respects conformable to the Lawes and Orders of the Church of England?

XV. HATH your Minister taken upon him to appoint any publick or private Fasts, Prophecying or Exercises, not appointed by Authority? Or doth he, or any other, either Minister or Lay-person, hold any Conventicles or Meetings in private Houses within your Parish for people of several Families to resort unto, under the pretence

of Preaching, Praying, Thanksgiving, or Humiliation; contrary to the Laws and Canons in that case provided?

XVI. IS your Parson, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer, a man of a sober, unblameable and exemplary life? Doth he familiarly converse with ungodly, vitious, and excommunicate persons? Is he a frequenter of Taverns or Ale-Houses? a common Gamester? a profane or obscene Jester? a Swearer, Railer, Scoffer, or Quarreller? Doth he set Neighbours at variance one with another? Or encourage them to Snits and Contention? Is he noted to be an intemperate Drinker? Or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person, either within your Parish, or without? Doth he wear hair of an immoderate or uncomely length? Is his apparel grave and decent, both for fashion and colour, as the Canons of the Church require? Or is his carriage and conversation in any kind whatsoever, disorderly or scandalous, and unbecoming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

T I T. IV.

Concerning the Parishioners.

I. IS there in your Parish any person, a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick? Any Papist, Familist, Anabaptist, Quaker, or other Sectary, that refuse to come unto the publick Assemblies, Prayers or Services of the Church, or that make profession of any other Religion than what is established in the Church of England? And if there be any such, what are their Names?

II. IS there any person in your Parish, that lyeth under a common Fame, or vehement suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish, or common Swearers, or Blasphemers of Gods Name, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy Talkers, sowers of Sedition, Faction, and Discord amongst their Neighbours?

III. DO

III. DO any of your Parish upon the Sundays or Holy-days, follow their bodily and ordinary Labour? Or permit their servants so to do? Are any Shops kept open, or Wares sold? Or do any Vintners, Wine-keepers, or other Retailers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, suffer any persons to Tiple or Game in their Houses upon those dayes?

IV. DO TH ebery person inhabiting or sojourning within your Parish, duly resort unto your Church or Chappel, upon ebery Sunday and Holy-day appointed for Divine Service? Do they then and there abide quietly with Reuerence, Order and Decency, during all the whole time of Common-prayer, Preaching, or other service of God there used? And are there any among you that come only to the Preaching, and not to the Common-prayers of the Church?

V. DO TH ebery person reuerently uncover his Head, and so continue all the time of Divine Service, and Sermon in the Church? Do they all reuerently kneel at the Prayers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel are read, making due Reuerence when the Name of our Lord Jesus is mentioned?

VI. ARE there any in your Parish that refuse to send their Infant-children to be baptized publicly in the Church, unless in case of urgent Danger; in which case, the child may be baptized at home by a lawfull Minister, after the Form and Rites appointed in the Liturgy? Or do they send them to be Baptized in any other Parishes, or after other Form than is appointed? Or, do they keep them unbaptized any longer time than the Church alloweth? And are there any Infants, or more aged persons in your Parish as yet unbaptized?

VII. DO TH ebery Householder in your Parish cause their children and servants to learn their Catechism, and to giue an account thereof unto your Minister, as he shall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundayes and Holy-days, as in the Book of Common-prayer is appointed: that when they are well instructed in the same, they may be confirmed by the Bishop?

VIII. IS there any person in your Parish, who being str-

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ten Years of Age, and well instructed in Religion, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, at least three times in the year, of which Easter is always to be one? Doth any in your Parish refuse to Receive the same kneeling: or from the hands of your own Minister, Repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad? Or, are there any strangers not of your Parish, that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it?

X. HAVE you any among you that be denounced and declared Excommunicate for any Crime committed? How long have they been so Excommunicated? And do any of your Parish keep Society with them before they be reconciled to the Church, and absolved?

X. ARE there any living in your Parish, who have been unlawfully Married, contrary to the Laws of God? Or any that being lawfully Divorced, have Married again? Or any that being lawfully Married, & not separated or Divorced by course of Law, do not Cohabit together?

XI. ARE there any Married women in your Parish, who after their Deliv'ry from the peril of Child-birth, refuse to make their publick Thanksgiving to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, Do they come decently Appareled, and make their Offerings according to Custom?

XII. ARE there any belonging to your Parish, who refuse to pay their Duty for Easter Offerings to your Minister? Or any that refuse to contribute, and pay the Rate Assessed upon them, for the Repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such Books, Furniture and Ornaments, as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices there?

XIII. DO any refuse to bury their Dead according to the Rites of the Church of England? And are there any Wills or Testaments of persons dead in your Parish, that be yet unproved? Or any goods Administred, without a due Grant from the Ordinaty? Did any dying in your Parish, or elsewhere, leave any Legacy to your Church or Chappel, or to the use of the poor, or to any other pious and charitable purposes? What were their Legacies, and how have they been bestowed?

XIV. DO

XIV. DO you know, or have you heard of any Patron, or other person in your Parish, having the Presentation or Gift of any Ecclesiastical Benefice, who hath made gain thereof, by presenting a Clerk or Minister to it upon any Bargain, either for Money or Pension, or Lease, reserve of Tithes, or Glebe, or any part thereof, or upon other Simonaical compact whatsoever?

XV. IS there any Strife and contention among any of your Parish, for their Pewes or Seats in your Church? Have any new Pewes been erected in your Chancel, or in the Body of your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary?

T I T. V.

Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.

I. HAVE you belonging to your Church or Chappelry, a Parish-Clerk aged Twenty one Years at the least? Is he of honest Life and Conversation, and sufficient or able to perform his Duty in Reading, Writing, and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister, and doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services at the Church? Are his Wages duly paid unto him? Or, who withholdeth the same from him?

II. DOth he or your Sexton (if there be any such appointed in your Parish) diligently look to the Doors of your Church, that they be locked and opened at due time? And doth he keep your Church or Chappel clean from Dust, Cobwebs, and other Annoyance? Doth he Toll or Ring the Bells at the due accustomed hours before the beginning of Divine Service, Morning and Evening, that the people may be warned to come unto the Church? And when any person is passing out of this Life, doth he upon notice given to him thereof, Toll a Bell, as hath been accustomed, that the Neighbours may thereby be warned to Recommend the dying person to the Grace and Favour of God?

TIT. VI.

T I T. VI.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-masters, Physitians, Chyrurgions, and Mid-Wives.

I. **I**S there any Hospital, Almes-House, or Free-School founded in your Parish? Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? And what is the Yearly Revenue, or Stipend, belonging to the Governoꝝ, or Masters of the same? Is the same Ordered and Governed in every respect as it ought to be? And are the Revenues thereof rightly employed, according to the intention of the Founder, and of such Grants and Ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

II. **D**OTH any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by the Bishop or his Chancelloꝝ? Doth your School-master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holy-daves, orderly to repair to your Church or Chappel; and see that they behave themselves there decently and reverently, during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

III. **D**OTH any man in your Parish practice Physick, or Chyrurgery; or any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of Midwife, without Approbation and License from the Ordinary?

T I T. VII.

Concerning Church-Wardens and Side-men.

I. **A**RE the Church-Wardens of your Parish Yearly and duly chosen by the joint consent of your Minister and Parishioners; or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

II. **H**AVE

II. HAVE the former and last Church-Wardens given up their due Accounts to the Parish, and delivered up to the succeeding Church-Wardens the Monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

III. DO you the Church-Wardens & Side-men take diligent care, and see who of your Parishioners be absent from the Divine Service and Sermon in your Church or Chappel, upon Sundayes and Holy-dayes? And if you find any so have absented themselves without a sufficient cause, do you by Warrant from some of the Justices of Peace, levy of them by way of Distress upon their Goods, the Sum of Twelve-pence for every such day of their absence, according to the Act of Parliament in that Case provided? And do you distribute the several Sums so levied, among the Poor of your Parish, according to the Law?

IV. DO you note them that come late to Church after Divine Service is begun, or depart before it be ended? Do you suffer none to stand idle, or talk together in the Church-porch, or to walk in the Church, or Church-yard, during the time of Prayers, Preaching, or other Sacred Offices?

V. DO you suffer no Misbehaviour or Disorder to be done by Men, Women or Servants, or Children in your Church or Chappel? Are you careful that none of them sit, lean, or lay their Hats upon the Communion-Table? Do you permit no Minstrels, no Morris-Dancers, no Dogs, Hawks, or Hounds, to be brought, or come into your Church, to the disturbance of the Congregation?

VI. DO you against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and of good Wine, according to the Number of Communicants?

VII. DO you cause all Strangers that Preach in your Church or Chappel, to subscribe their Names the same day in a Book provided for that purpose, together with the Name of the Bishop that Licensed them to Preach in this Diocese? And do you permit no other to Preach?

VIII. HAVE

VIII; HAVE you (the Church-Wardens and Side-men) now sworn to give in a true Answer unto all these Articles of Enquiry in all their several Titles, taken sufficient time to draw up your Presentments, and therein consulted with your Minister for his faithfull Assistance?

FOR know you assuredly, That as the true discharging of your Office, is the chief means whereby Publick Disorders, Sins and Offences in your Parish may be Reformed and Punished: So if you wilfully refuse to Present such Crimes and Faults as either you know to have been committed, or otherwise have heard of by Publick Fame: That in such Cases, the Bishop and his Officers are to proceed against you in their Ecclesiastical Courts, as in cases of wilfull Omission and Perjury.



FINIS.

